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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VATICAN 000523

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/WE, NEA, OSD FOR DASD BRZEZINSKI, NSC FOR ABRAHMS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/07/2013

TAGS: [PREL IZ VT IZ VT NATOPREL NATO](#)

SUBJECT: IRAQ: DASD BRZEZINSKI'S MEETI...

SUBJECT: IRAQ: DASD BRZEZINSKI'S MEETING WITH HOLY SEE FM TAURAN: VATICAN STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF ADDITIONAL UN RESOLUTION

REF: VATICAN 5756

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR JIM NICHOLSON: REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

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SUMMARY

1. (C) HOLY SEE FOREIGN MINISTER ARCHBISHOP JEAN-LOUIS TAURAN TOLD VISITING DASD IAN BRZEZINSKI FEBRUARY 7 THAT THE GAP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE ANSWER" TO THE SITUATION, AND, IF IT WAS, WHO WOULD MAKE THE DECISION FOR WAR. TAURAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE HOLY SEE BELIEVES ONLY THE UN C THAT IRAQ HAD LITTLE TIME TO DEMONSTRATE ITS WILLINGNESS TO DISARM. TAURAN SAID THE HOLY SEE HAS ALREADY CONVEYED THAT MESSAGE TO THE IRAQI AM MAKE IT MORE PALATABLE INTERNATIONALLY. BRZEZINSKI ASSURED TAURAN THAT THE U.S. WOULD ACT IN AN BROAD COALITION. END SUMMARY.

U.S.-HOLY SEE VIEWS NOT FAR APART
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2. (C) IN A FEBRUARY 7 MEETING, DASD IAN BRZEZINSKI (IN ROME WITH SECRETARY RUMSFELD'S DELEGATION) ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR NICHOLSON EMPHASI AND IRAQ'S WMD CAPABILITIES. HE NOTED THAT SECRETARY POWELL'S UN PRESENTATION MADE CLEAR THAT SADDAM CONTINUED TO DEVELOP HIS WMD CAPABILITIES, DESPITE HIS COMMITMENT TO DISARM, WHICH LEFT "NO RC ONCE AGAIN FLOUT THE WILL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

3. (C) IN THE FACE OF A STEADY DRUMBEAT OF MEDIA REPORTS SUGGESTING UNYIELDING VATICAN OPPOSITION TO WAR, TAURAN WENT OUR OF HIS WAY TO EMPHAS THIS IS SADDAM'S "LAST CHANCE" AND THAT HE NEEDS TO COOPERATE IMMEDIATELY. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT BOTH THE UN AND HOLY SEE HAVE EMPHASIZEE SEE IS COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO WAR AT ANY POINT. RATHER, HE SAID THE CRUCIAL ISSUE WAS WHO WILL SAY, "THE GAME IS OVER," AND WHEN THAT DECISIC CONFIDENTIAL

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POSITION OF THE IRAQI PEOPLE, AND STILL NEEDED TO BE CONVINCED THAT WAR IS THE ONLY SOLUTION. HE ALSO REITERATED THE HOLY SEE'S FEAR FOR THE REACTION OF THE ARAB WORLD, CITING ARAB LEAGUE HEAD AM

"NOT ONLY AN AMERICAN WAR"

4. (C) IN HIS EFFORT TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS, TAURAN EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE U.S. T THE WORLD REMAINED THAT THIS WAS AN AMERICAN CONCERN NOT SHARED BROADLY. "IF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DEEMS THAT THE TIME IS RIGHT," HE C DASD BRZEZINSKI COUNTERED THAT THE U.S. BELIEVED UNSC 1441 PROVIDED ADEQUATE AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE MILITARY ACTION.

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AMAD-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 PERC-00 DS-00
VC-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 LAB-01 VCE-00 NEA-00
DCP-01 NSAE-00 PM-00 SSO-00 SS-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00
PRM-00 DRL-01 SAS-00 SWCI-00 /003W
-----3388DC 100630Z /38

O 100546Z FEB 03
FM AMEMBASSY VATICAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

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WITHOUT DISPUTING THAT, TAURAN INSISTED THAT AN ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION "WOULD BE BETTER." BRZEZINSKI ALSO ASSURED TAURAN THAT ANY ACTION WOU
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BEFORE TEN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAD AFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR ACTION, JOINING THE EIGHT EUROPEANS WHO HAD SIGNED THE EARLIER

15. (C) REFLECTING THE HOLY SEE'S SENSITIVITY ABOUT THE TERM 'WAR,' TAURAN WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE BETTER TO CHARACTERIZE ANY MI REINFORCE THE COMMUNAL RESPONSIBILITY OF ANY ACTION, HE BELIEVED.

CLEARING UP MISUNDERSTANDINGS ON INSPECTIONS

16. (C) TAURAN SOUGHT TO CLARIFY WITH BRZEZINSKI THE HOLY SEE'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE INSPECTION PROCESS. TAURAN SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT HANS BLIX HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE WHETHER IRAQ W IRAQ, WHICH MUST FULLY COOPERATE, BUT HAS INSTEAD CONTINUED TO DECEIVE. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT INSPECTORS ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE LOOF TAURAN THEN ASKED IF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF INSPECTORS WOULD STRENGTHEN THE SUCCESS OF INSPECTIONS. BRZEZINSKI MADE CLEAR THAT IN THE ABSENC CONFIDENTIAL

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OF INSPECTORS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

DELIVERING A MESSAGE TO TARIQ AZIZ

17. (C) FOLLOWING UP THE FEBRUARY 5 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER TARIQ AZIZ WOULD MEET THE POPE FEBRUARY 14, THE AMBASSADOR URGED THE IRAQI AMBASSADOR TO THE HOLY SEE THE MESSAGE THAT "THIS IS NOT A GAME," AND THAT IRAQ NEEDED TO COMPLY WITH THE UN RESOLUTIONS IMMEDIATEI

COMMENT

18. (C) IN THE FACE OF EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE GIVEN TO PAPAL AND OTHER CURIAL STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO WAR, TAURAN WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO AVOID WAR, HIS STATEMENTS REFLECTED AN EVEN GREATER UNDERSTANDING THAN WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY SEEN THAT WAR MAY BE UNAVOIDABLE. IN FACT, HIS POSITION STANDS IN STARK CONTRAST TO A HOLY SEE-SANCTIONE CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS PUBLISHED IN CIVILTA CATTOLICA TWO MONTHS AGO (REFTEL), AND WHICH VATICAN OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY TOLD US REFLECTS OFFICIAL VIEWS. BOTH THE UN FRAMEWORK COULD BE CONSIDERED LEGITIMATE. WE BELIEVE HIS PREVIOUS AND MOST RECENT STATEMENTS PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH WE CAN CC

19. (C) DASD BRZEZINSKI DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAR THIS MESSAGE.

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